

Elected Members Update for local MPs, MSPs and Councillors

This update is part of our on-going commitment to keep elected members informed of the latest developments at NHS Fife that may be of interest to you and your constituents. We would also encourage you to regularly visit and refer your constituents for the latest news and updates from NHS Fife on our [website](#): or follow us on our social media channels.

Enquiries

To ensure accurate and timely responses from NHS Fife, all enquiries from elected members should be directed to the NHS Fife Chief Executive Office for response and co-ordination at fife.chiefexecutive@nhs.scot. Members are politely reminded not to approach services or individual members of staff directly for responses.

Main updates

National Treatment Centre – Fife Orthopaedics officially opens

Last week, outgoing First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, officially opened our new National Treatment Centre – Fife Orthopaedics in her final public engagement in the role.

The £33m centre hosts three operating theatres, a supporting inpatient ward and associated outpatient facilities, and becomes the first of a national network of new purpose-built facilities to be completed and fully operational.

It's the largest capital project NHS Fife has undertaken since the opening of phase 3 of the Victoria Hospital in 2012. Work commenced on construction in March 2021 and the project has been delivered on budget.

Earlier that week, Paul Gilhooley, from Kirkcaldy, became the first to be treated in the facility, undergoing hip replacement surgery. More information is available [here](#).

Changes made to delivery of services at Methilhaven Surgery

Changes are being made to the delivery of services from Methilhaven Surgery, which is currently located within Randolph Wemyss Memorial Hospital.

To help ease pressure, around 3,000 patients will be re-registered to Airlie Medical Practice in Lower Methil, and a further 1,000 to Muiredge Practice in Buckhaven.

Airlie and Muiredge will be supported with additional staff to ensure each can maintain the high-quality care offered to their increased list, while continuing to deliver the same high-quality care to existing patients.

Patients being asked to move will be notified directly in the coming weeks, with the transfer being carried out on a phased basis. Decisions will be based on postcode and those re-registered will have the right to appeal.

Methilhaven Surgery will remain open with a reduced patient list, ensuring greater stability and improved access for remaining patients. More information is available [here](#).

Responses to complaints or concerns

As referenced during the latest meeting with MSPs and MPs, NHS Fife has been experiencing challenges around meeting nationally set response timeframes.

A concern should be responded to within five working days; however, we recognise that we are currently not always achieving this. Due to factors such as clinical pressures, working through a backlog, as well as capacity within our patient experience service team, we have taken longer than we would have ordinarily liked to respond to some enquiries.

We continue to work with services and to review our processes so that we can improve our response times and since January, we have managed to resolve, close, and reduce our outstanding concerns and enquiries by 43%.

Alastair Morris to take up role as interim Chair

Alistair Morris, currently our Vice Chair, has been formally invited to take over the Chair's responsibilities by former Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Humza Yousaf MSP.

The arrangement takes effect from the 1st of April, until a permanent Chair is appointed, and follows the announcement that Tricia Marwick will step down as Chair of the Board, after six years. More information is available [here](#).

Fife Health and Social Care Partnership requests

Whilst all enquiries relating to Fife Health and Social Care Partnership services should always be made to the organisation directly, we have asked for specific updates on topics that were raised with us at the last meeting of MSPs and MPs with NHS Fife. As such, Fife Health and Social Care Partnership has provided us with the following:

Interim care beds

Following the recent Scottish Government announcement on funding, additional patients have been moved into interim care beds while they wait for packages of care to become available.

The use of interim care beds has been an established model of care in Fife for some time, although interim bed moves have been very low over the last few weeks because packages of care have been more readily available.

The numbers of patients in hospitals in Fife who are medically fit for discharge fluctuates continually as patients recover and as others leave hospital.

Fife Health and Social Care Partnership works closely with colleagues in NHS Fife daily to ensure those who are medically fit to leave hospital can be discharged appropriately home, or to a homely setting such as a care home, as quickly as possible.

Delayed discharge

As is being experienced across the country, Fife has seen an unprecedented level of demand over recent months.

To reduce any potential delays, discharge planning is begun at the earliest possible stage to ensure an appropriate package of care or care home placement is in place well ahead of the individual's date of discharge from hospital.

And in the last month in Fife, there has been less than 8 people on any day waiting on a package of care to enable them to go home in any Fife hospital.

Old Bank Dental Practice

The independent Real Good Dental advised they intend to close the Old Bank Dental Practice in Tayport, due to issues with staff recruitment, including new NHS dentists.

A letter was sent to patients, but was backdated to November last year, causing confusion in the local community about arrangements moving forward.

NHS Fife has been made aware of this situation and has written to the regional manager of the organisation asking them to provide clarification to ourselves and to Tayport patients.

Nationally and in Fife, there are challenges for people who wish to register with an NHS dentist. However, we are doing all that we can to improve and facilitate access to community dental care.

If people are experiencing acute dental pain, and are not registered with a dentist, they can call the Dental Advice Line which is staffed by members of our Public Dental Service on 01592 226 555 (Open Monday to Friday, 8 am to 5 pm) and they will be able to receive dental care within 24 hours.

[Haematology and Oncology Day Unit returns to Victoria site](#)

The Haematology and Oncology Day Unit has returned to the Victoria Hospital site after relocating at the start of the pandemic to protect vulnerable patients receiving chemotherapy.

The unit is purpose built for the delivery of cancer treatment and care, and provides a range of benefits for patients, including additional support and easy access to the nearby Maggie's Centre. More information is available [here](#).

[Equality and Mainstreaming Report](#)

We're continually working to eliminate discrimination and improve the experiences of people living and working in Fife.

Our latest Equality and Mainstreaming Report details our progress and ambitions around topics including reducing discrimination, harassment, and victimisation, and advancing equality of opportunity. View the report [here](#).

[Climate Emergency and Sustainability Report](#)

We've produced our first Climate Emergency and Sustainability Report, which covers topics including what we're doing to reduce emissions, sustainable methods of care, and our work to promote active travel and transport options. You can view the report [here](#).

[Covid vaccination](#)

Following guidance issued by the JCVI, people aged 75 or over, and those aged five and over with a weakened immune system, will soon receive their spring booster appointment via letter, email, or text. Constituents should wait to be contacted. More information about the spring booster is available [here](#).

The [online vaccination portal](#) remains open for those who are eligible to book an appointment. They can also book by calling 0800 030 8013.

The latest information on local vaccination more generally, including flu immunisation, can be found [here](#).

Sharing our messages

We appreciate the support of elected members in sharing our health messages and note that you have already been engaging with the topics we have suggested on social media - we are grateful for your support.

Help us to help you keep your constituents informed

NHS Fife would ask our elective representatives to share our regular updates and guidance via their own channels of communications with their constituents. By supporting us you can help to ensure that we can reach as many people as possible across Fife in a timely manner.

Accessible information and translation

NHS Fife continues to provide interpreting and translation services for patients despite there being no face-to-face interpretation currently. These assets and further information can be found [here](#).

All Information correct at time of publishing. Issued by the communications team.